

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated November 9, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1 is hereby amended. Accordingly, claims 1-19 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 6, 9-11 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,888,608 to Miyazaki et al. (hereinafter "Miyazaki"). Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazaki.

The rejection of claims 1-19 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-19 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "forming at least one first column spacer on the active area on the second substrate; forming at least one second column spacer in the dummy area on the second substrate; forming a sealant in a periphery of the active area of the second substrate; [and] forming a liquid crystal layer between the first and second substrates." None of the cited references including Miyazaki, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The structure of claim 1 of the present invention is different from the Miyazaki structure in that Miyazaki does not disclose or suggest "forming at least one second column spacer in the dummy area on the overcoat layer of the second substrate; forming a sealant in a periphery of the active area of the second substrate; forming a liquid crystal layer between the first and second substrates". Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-19, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to

discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: February 8, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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